

What is claimed is:

1. A containment structure for a handheld impact tool comprising:
a containment structure that at least partially enshrouds an impact mechanism of the handheld tool, the containment structure comprising titanium.
2. The containment structure according to claim 1 wherein the containment structure is a substantially rigid housing arranged in operation coaxially with and extending circumferentially around an axis of rotation of the impact mechanism.
3. The containment structure according to claim 1 wherein the containment structure is manufactured by casting.
4. The containment structure according to claim 1 wherein the containment structure is made of a titanium alloy.
5. The containment structure according to claim 4 wherein the titanium alloy is one of Ti-6Al-4V, Ti-3Al-2.5V and Ti-4Al-2V.
6. The containment structure according to claim 4 wherein the titanium alloy has an ultimate tensile strength of from about 90 Ksi to about 130 Ksi and a yield strength of from about 70 Ksi to about 120 Ksi.
7. The containment structure according to claim 4 wherein the titanium alloy has a maximum density of 0.16 lbs/in³.
8. A handheld impact tool comprising:

an impact mechanism having an axis of rotation, and
a containment structure that at least partially enshrouds the impact mechanism, the
containment structure comprising titanium.

9. The handheld tool according to claim 8, wherein
the impact mechanism has an axis of rotation, and
the containment structure is a substantially rigid housing arranged coaxially with and
extending circumferentially around the axis of rotation of the impact mechanism.

10. The handheld tool according to claim 8 wherein the containment structure is
manufactured by casting.

11. The handheld tool according to claim 8 wherein the impact tool is pneumatically
driven.

12. The handheld tool according to claim 8 wherein the containment structure is made
of a titanium alloy.

13. The handheld tool according to claim 12 wherein the titanium alloy is one of
Ti-6Al-4V, Ti-3Al-2.5V and Ti-4Al-2V.

14. The handheld tool according to claim 12 wherein the titanium alloy has an ultimate
tensile strength of from about 90 Ksi to about 130 Ksi and a yield strength of from about 70 Ksi
to about 120 Ksi.

15. The handheld tool according to claim 12 wherein the titanium alloy has a
maximum density of 0.16 lbs/in³.